National Catholic Youth Conference

IHM Spring Information Packet 2021

THE BASICS:

WHO: The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) is open to all IHM Catholic teens who will be in grades 9-12 in the Fall of 2021.

WHAT: NCYC is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes general sessions and workshops addressing a wide variety of relevant topics as well as opportunities for reconciliation, daily liturgy, and special activities such as concerts and a comedy club. It is attended by well over 20,000 Catholic teens from around the country and it is an opportunity to participate in an amazing event that, by God’s grace, will leave a life-long impact on the hearts and minds of our young people.

WHEN: Thursday, November 18 through Sunday, November 21, 2021

WHERE: Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana.

HOW: Deacon Chris will coordinate registration, preparation, and transportation of teens to and from Indianapolis and serve as the primary coordinator/chaperone for the trip. The Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Division of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry will lend their expertise and resources to assist/coordinate in the areas of chaperone/student registration, bus travel and hotel accommodations.

WHY: Immaculate Heart of Mary is excited and eager to sponsor any qualifying teen from our parish to participate in this event. The theme of NCYC this year is “Ablaze.” We are confident that the event managers will, by the grace of God, be successful in their mission to “call upon the Holy Spirit to descend upon our young Church and set them Ablaze for the Lord!”

*Questions? CONTACT DEACON CHRIS at* ***Christopher.Pinto@archbalt.org***

MORE DETAILS – Registration, What to Expect, and More!

REGISTRATION: If you are a teen interested in attending NCYC as part of IHM Parish, the deadline for registration is July 1, 2021. Registration is handled online and the link to the form (www.cognitoforms.com/ImmaculateHeartOfMaryParish/The2021NationalCatholicYouthConferenceRegistrationFormIHMParish) is available on the parish website at www.ihmchurchmd.org/youth. Your parents will be required to register you on your behalf.

COST: The final cost of the trip is still TBD by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Deacon Chris. In years past, it has typically been around $650 per participant. This includes event registration, hotel accommodations, bus travel, meals, an NCYC survival pack/supply bag, and a T-Shirt.

The cost of the trip, however, will be sponsored in large part by the generous parishioners and organizations of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Each participating teen is expected to contribute at least $95 toward the total cost of their trip (due at registration). Deacon Chris has been accepting donations from various individuals and organizations on behalf of the teens who will be going and will continue to accept them until the time of the trip. If we fall short of the fundraising goal, it means more than $95 of the cost of the trip will be the responsibility of each teen. Please know, however, that *every teen* who wants to be a part of NCYC will be able to go regardless of their financial ability. If you have any needs in this area, please contact Deacon Chris directly.

As an IHM Parish sponsored trip, registration is only available to teens that are a part of IHM ministries (such as altar serving, Teen Bible Study, etc.). Teens who are not part of ministries here at IHM are encouraged to make arrangements for NCYC through the parish where your family is registered. If (and only if) that parish does not participate in NCYC, please contact Deacon Chris for special arrangements. The cost of your trip will need to be sponsored by you and/or your own parish, however, but be assured Deacon Chris will gladly assist you in this regard.

Everyone should kindly plan on bringing some extra cash on the trip to purchase items such as snacks/drinks/meals during travel at rest stops, NCYC souvenirs, etc.

SCHEDULE: A specific daily schedule/itinerary will be developed over the summer/early fall. For planning purposes, please know that the bus will likely depart Parkville for Indianapolis very early in the morning of Thursday, November 18th (like 4am early). Return travel takes place overnight (bring a pillow and blanket for the bus) overnight and we will return to Parkville sometime Sunday, November 21st in the late morning to mid-day.

PREPARATION: In order to foster deeper spiritual growth, teens signed up for NCYC will be required to participate in preparation sessions leading up to the event. About 6-8 ninety minute sessions will be scheduled at times convenient for the group. This will be determined after registration is complete.

CHAPERONES: Deacon Chris and Mrs. Alice Kelly will be serving as chaperones for NCYC. More chaperones will likely be added as the number of registered teens warrants it. Deacon Chris and Ms. Elizabeth Strauch will be guiding the teens through the preparation process. If you have an interest in offering your time to be considered to serve as a chaperone, please contact Deacon Chris. Please note that all chaperones will need to be in strict compliance with the policies of the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Division of Child and Youth Protection. All chaperones will need to complete the VIRTUS/Protecting God’s Children certification requirements.

MORE DETAILS – Pandemic and the NCYC Website

From the NCYC website, updated on 3/11/2021:

***Planning in a Pandemic:*** *News reports about COVID-19 are everywhere. We at the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) join our prayers with yours for the development and deployment of improved treatment and prevention protocols and for the eventual eradication of this virus that has affected so many in very profound ways. Despite the period in which we currently find ourselves, NFCYM continues to move forward in a spirit of optimism with plans for an in-person National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) November 18-20, 2021, in Indianapolis.*

*Over the coming year, NFCYM will be working closely with officials of the city of Indianapolis and the Marion County, Indiana, health department to develop virus mitigation and response plans specifically for NCYC. Only with their approval will NFCYM open the doors to the 2021 NCYC. If you have previously participated, the 2021 NCYC will look and operate a little differently. What should be unmistakable in the experience is our commitment to the NCYC mission: to provide a distinctly Catholic environment in which participants are invited to encounter Christ, experience Church, and be empowered for discipleship.*

*To this end, the NCYC project team is currently reviewing every plan made to date to ensure it still resonates amid this pandemic and all the conflicting emotions and changed realities that have come along with it. More detailed program information will be posted as it becomes available.*

Please feel free to visit the NCYC website at www.nfcym.org/featured-events/ncyc regularly to check for updates. You will also find more information about the featured speakers who will be headlining this year’s NCYC.

Please note: The NCYC website’s listed registration costs do not include transportation, hotel accommodations, any meals, nor any other costs associated with attending the event. The final cost of registration and transportation is determined by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, with a small addition by IHM to cover a T-Shirt and some meals. Also, the NCYC lists November 18-20th as the event dates. The Archdiocese and IHM parish have planned Sunday, November 21st as the day for return travel to Parkville.

NOTE TO PARENTS AND PARISHIONERS FROM DEACON CHRIS

IHM Parish is extremely happy to offer this opportunity to attend to our young people. It is my sincere hope that many teens will decide that they want to see what all the NCYC buzz is all about and join the well over 20,000 other Catholic Teens from around the country in Indianapolis. I have seen first-hand the excitement and energy of this event, and how the Holy Spirit can work through this experience to really set young hearts on fire for the Lord and His Holy Church.

I look forward to working with our participating young people to help maximize its transformative effect. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. If you are a parishioner interested in supporting NCYC and helping to financially support the teens, you may do so in several ways:

1) Go to our Parish Website, ihmchurchmd.org, scroll down and click on “Online Giving.” Follow the link for “NCYC/Teen Evangelization”

2) Text NCYC2021 to the number 410-883-5058 and follow the instructions

3) Drop a separate envelope into the collection basket – please be sure checks are marked with “NCYC” in the memo line, and cash is in an envelope that is clearly marked NCYC

All general contributions to this fund will equally support all of our teens going to NCYC. After registration closes, you will have the chance to sponsor a specific teen. So, if you want to wait for that opportunity, feel free to do so!

Most importantly, I humbly ask for your prayers for me and for the teens of our parish as we journey together towards Jesus Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please also be assured of our prayers for you!